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Against this must be set off the increase of 472 in the number of triune officers in proprietary estates.

As regards the other clauses of the question, the collection of the statistics will involve an undue amount of work in the district offices. The Government do not therefore propose to ask the Board to undertake this.

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—“ However much it may be inconvenient to call upon the Collectors to furnish information as to the number of appeals received from the village officers in view of the labour involved, I don't think there will be any difficulty in getting the information from the Board of Revenue. I expect that in a place like the Board of Revenue, well conducted as it is, there is a register maintained containing the appeals that have been preferred and another column showing what was done with each appeal, whether it was allowed or rejected. So will the hon. Member be pleased to reconsider his decision and propose to ask the Board of Revenue to give information about a matter about which so much of hardship is felt and much feeling is entertained all over the Presidency ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—“ I shall call for the information.”

Water-supply.

Bellary water-supply scheme.

130 Q.—Mr. K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are willing to take up the Bellary water scheme which has been kept in abeyance for want of funds ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a great scarcity of drinking water in Bellary town and that the two or three wells which are the main source of supply are getting dried up for want of rain ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Bellary has pressed the said point several times and, if it is so, what action has been taken on his representation ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the supply of water in the Fort ditch has been reserved solely for the Mappilla convicts ; and

(e) for how many months the supply of water in the Bellary town will last ?

A.—(a) The Government have already decided to take up the scheme at once for execution and have agreed as a very special case to bear 75 per cent of the initial cost of the scheme. The Bellary Municipal Council has been asked to report immediately whether it agrees to impose the taxation required to finance its share of the capital cost and to meet the maintenance charges.

(b) The Government understand that owing to the failure of the rains the water level in all the main sources of supply is very low for this time of the year. These sources are reported to be (1) the artesian well, (2) the Fort ditch, (3) the mainwaring and Nulla tanks and (4) some wells.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative. The Chief Engineer was specially sent to Bellary to report on the water-supply scheme. Work will be commenced very soon and it is expected that the scheme will be completed in less than a year.

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- (d) From a report received from the Chairman, dated 1st December, it appears that the public of Cowl Bazaar have been prohibited by the District Magistrate from taking water from the Fort ditch. The Government are enquiring into the matter.
- (e) The Government have no definite information; but the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, has reported that there may be great scarcity of water during the next six months.

Water-supply to Patha Cuddapah tank.

131 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the water-supply to Patha Cuddapah tank from the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal has considerably diminished owing to the Ukkayapalli project and that this decrease is causing great hardship to the ryots under the said tank;

(b) whether the Government intend to take early steps to ensure a sufficient supply to the tank by widening the water course in the canal or taking such other necessary steps as would give sufficient supply to the tank; and

(c) whether the Government will enquire into the matter?

A.—The answer is in the negative. During the execution of the Ukkayapalli project, the supply channel to the Patha Cuddapah tank was widened to suit the increased ayacut brought in by the project. It is understood that after the execution of the project the supply to the tank has improved and the area irrigated under it has increased appreciably.

Water convenience in Mulluvadi, Salem district.

132 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the depressed classes suffer very much for want of a water tap in their locality alongside the public road in Mulluvadi, Salem, and

(b) why no steps have been taken by the Salem Municipal Council to provide a water tap for the depressed classes in a suitable place in Mulluvadi, Salem?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Will the Government be pleased to call for the information.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes.”

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures in Coimbatore municipality.

133 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that defective measures, scales and weights are being allowed in the markets, bazaars and shops in the Coimbatore municipality; and